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## **FOREWORD**

The Department of Transportation, Traffic Engineering Division, Traffic Monitoring Section is responsible for the collection of all types of traffic data and maintenance of a statewide traffic volume database. The analysis and reporting of traffic volumes and vehicle classification data are accomplished through two types of counting programs. They are as follows:

### **CONTINUOUS COUNT PROGRAM**

Traffic volumes are monitored on a continuous year round basis at sixty-eight permanent recorder sites located on major highways throughout the State. These hourly counts are collected to produce an average weekday figure, a weekly average day, a monthly average day, and a monthly average weekday. This information is compiled to develop an Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) figure for each location. The AADT is computed from the average of daily totals for the entire year.

The Department has nineteen locations along routed highways that collect data based on thirteen categories as defined by the Federal Highway Administration. An AADT is computed based on the total volume as well as summary data for individual vehicle types.

### **24 HOUR TRAFFIC DATA COLLECTION PROGRAM**

Between April 1st and November 15th of each year, 24 hour traffic counts (i.e., coverage counts) are gathered to monitor traffic flow and changes in traffic patterns. These counts are generally taken at intersections with major routes and/or other significant roads, at Town Lines (TL), at bridges, or in coordination with ongoing projects or special traffic studies for the Department.

Additionally, 24-hour vehicle classification counts are performed in conjunction with the coverage counts to provide a comprehensive view of traffic along the routed highways.

The State is divided into three count zones:

**ZONE I :** Southwestern Maine to western Penobscot Bay region. This zone includes all of York, Cumberland, Sagadahoc, Lincoln, Knox, and Waldo counties, Oxford county from Albany Twp/Waterboro West & Oxford, Otisfield, as well as Poland, and Mechanic Falls in Androscoggin county.

**ZONE II :** Western/Central Maine and eastern Penobscot Bay region. This zone includes all of Androscoggin except Poland, and Mechanic Falls, Franklin, Kennebec counties, the remainder of Oxford county, Somerset county from Bingham south plus between Flagstaff Lake area and Kennebec River, southern Penobscot county, and western Hancock county.

**ZONE III :** Northern and eastern Maine. This zone includes all of Aroostook, Piscataquis, Washington counties, northern and southeastern Hancock county, Penobscot county from Lagrange north, and the remainder of Somerset county.

As of 2012 these zones are counted on a three year cycle, collecting data in one zone per year to cover the entire state within a three year period. The Coverage Count Program also consists of the “Special Counts” taken each year to satisfy Departmental needs, local requests, and Federal requirements. These include the Interstate System counts and data collected from the various traffic studies conducted throughout the year. The 2012 Program included 3223 counts accomplished.

Once the AADT’s have been computed for all of the permanent recorder locations, weekly factors for each station are calculated by dividing the AADT by each average weekly figure. Those stations which exhibit similar traffic patterns are assembled and placed into one of three groups:

**URBAN :** Roadways which carry commuter traffic and exhibit little seasonal change in traffic volumes.

**ARTERIAL :** Roadways which carry commuter traffic but exhibit moderate seasonal changes in traffic volumes.

**RECREATIONAL :** Roadways which are heavily influenced by seasonal traffic.

Within each of the three groups, a factor for each week is calculated by averaging the weekly factors from each station within the group.

The 2012 Weekly Group Mean Factors were developed by averaging the Weekly Group Mean Factors for 2009, 2010 and 2011. The following pages show the graph of the 2012 Weekly Group Mean Factors as a Percent of the AADT, and a list of these factors.

The 24-hour raw data may now be grouped and assigned a factor to produce an AADT. Growth factors for expanding traffic in uncounted zones are developed utilizing data from the permanent recorders and comparing it to the data from the previous year.

The updated AADT’s are entered into the Maine Department of Transportation’s database to be used by various personnel.

## **DESCRIPTION of HEADINGS, SYMBOLS, AND ABBREVIATIONS**

The following is a description of the column headings, symbols, and abbreviations used for the Coverage Count Section.

**TOWN**            The town in which a count was taken

**ROUTE**            The road or highway on which the count was taken.

### **Non-Interstate Highways and Roads**

---- X indicates a Routed Highway

0196X = SR 196

0001X = US Route 1

---- A or --- B indicates an Alternate Routed Highway

0001A = US Route 1A    0009B = SR 9B

---- C indicates a Business Route

0001C = Business US Route 1, 1A, or 1B

0025C = Business SR 25

Just a number with no letter OR no numbers or letters indicates a non-routed highway

= Pine Hill Road

00001 = Hubbard Road

01414 = IR 1414

00991 = IR 991 (Biddeford Road)

### **Interstate System**

---- X indicates Northbound or Eastbound

---- S indicates Southbound

---- W indicates Westbound

0095X = I-95 Northbound

0095S = I-95 Southbound

0395W = I-395 Westbound

0395X = I-395 Eastbound

**LOCATION****A description of where the count was taken.**

|   |                        |                                       |                                 |                            |
|---|------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>APP = Approach</b>   | <b>ART = Arterial</b>  | <b>ATR=Automatic Traffic Recorder</b> | <b>AVE = Avenue</b>             | <b>BK = Brook</b>          |
| <b>BLVD = Boulevard</b>   | <b>BR = Bridge</b>     | <b>CIR = Circle</b>                   | <b>CL = County Line</b>         | <b>CNR = Corner</b>        |
| <b>CONN = Connector</b>   | <b>CTR = Center</b>    | <b>CUL = Compact Urban Line</b>       | <b>CWY = Cause way</b>          | <b>CV = Cove</b>           |
| <b>DR = Drive</b>   | <b>EB = Eastbound</b>  | <b>ENT = Entrance</b>                 | <b>FL=Fall</b>                  | <b>FLS=Falls</b>           |
| <b>HBR = Harbor</b>   | <b>HTS = Heights</b>   | <b>HWY = Highway</b>                  | <b>INT'L = International</b>    | <b>IR = Inventory Road</b> |
| <b>LG = Long</b>  | <b>LK = Lake</b>       | <b>LN = Lane</b>                      | <b>LWR = Lower</b>              | <b>MEM = Memorial</b>      |
| <b>MT = Mount</b>   | <b>MTN = Mountain</b>  | <b>NB = Northbound</b>                | <b>NH = New Hampshire</b>       | <b>OW = One Way</b>        |
| <b>PD = Pond</b>  | <b>PK = Park</b>       | <b>PKWY = Park Way</b>                | <b>PL = Place</b>               | <b>PT = Point</b>          |
| <b>PZ = Plaza</b>   | <b>RD = Road</b>       | <b>RDG = Ridge</b>                    | <b>RMP = Ramp</b>               | <b>RR = Railroad</b>       |
| <b>RV = River</b>   | <b>SB = Southbound</b> | <b>SL = State Line</b>                | <b>SQ = Square</b>              | <b>SR = State Route</b>    |
| <b>ST = Street</b>  | <b>STA = Station</b>   | <b>STR = Stream</b>                   | <b>TERR = Terrace</b>           | <b>TL = Town Line</b>      |
| <b>TPK = Turnpike</b>   | <b>TR = Trail</b>      | <b>UPR = Upper</b>                    | <b>US = United States Route</b> | <b>WB = Westbound</b>      |
| <b>N/O, NE/O, E/O, etc. = North of, Northeast of, East of, etc.</b> |                        |                                       |                                 |                            |

**TYPE****Category for each count taken.**

- A      Permanent Recorder Count**
- B      BACTS Count**
- C      Coverage Count**
- I      Interstate Count**
- K      KACTS Count**
- L      ATRC Count (Formerly LACTS)**
- M      Municipal, Town, Regional Count**
- P      PACTS Count**
- S      Special Count**
- T      Turning Movement Count**
- W      Weigh-In-Motion Count**
- Z      Speed Count**

**GROUP****The factor group assigned to the location.**

- I      Urban Group                  II      Arterial Group**
- III      Recreational Group    ATR   Permanent Traffic Recorder Group**

**AADT****Annual Average Daily Traffic**